

Melksham Town Council

Minutes of the Economic Development and Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 27th June 2022

PRESENT: Councillor G Ellis (Chair)
Councillor G Cooke (Vice-Chair)
Councillor P Aves
Councillor S Crundell
Councillor J Hubbard
Councillor J Oatley
Councillor S Rabey

IN ATTENDANCE: Gerald Milward Oliver

OFFICERS:	Linda Roberts	Town Clerk
	Christine Hunter	Committee Clerk

260/22 Apologies

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Two members of the public and one member of the press were present. One member of the public was present virtually.

Katherine Cooper, dog owner asked there had been a knee-jerk decision to close the Dog Bark because of the proximity of two cherry trees, and when would it be re-opened?

The Town Clerk explained that the issue would be discussed within the following Asset Management and Amenities committee meeting, but that a resolution to the situation had been identified and the area would be re-opened shortly.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Goodhind who was substituted by Councillor Hubbard.

261/22 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

262/22 Minutes

It was agreed to defer approval of the minutes of 6 June 2022 to the Economic Development and Planning Committee meeting scheduled for 11 July 2022 to enable the Committee Clerk to review the wording relating to the new Town Plan.

263/22 Neighbourhood Plan

It was proposed by the Councillor Hubbard, seconded by Councillor Rabey, and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that Councillor Cooke would attend the Joint Melksham Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meeting scheduled for 29 June 2022, as substitute.

264/22 Priority for People Presentation

Gerald Milward-Oliver from Priority for People reported on work undertaken and the next steps, confirming that political commitment from all levels was crucial. Priority for People would produce a sustainable mobility plan which would include small scale measures for quick wins. There would be a network composed of individual groups/organisations working to present mutually agreed actions and strategies, with the core oversight group being led by the Town Council and Melksham Without Parish Council (MWPC). Groups would be self-financing and involve local communities, invite nominees with specialist experience and bring in specific experts when needed. Other sources of finance to support the additional expertise may be required. Gerald gave examples of how the group could move forward encouraging mobility, parking and public transport.

The Town Mayor, Councillor S Crundell, asked whether the outcome of MWPC's meeting regarding helping fund Priority for People had been received. The Town Clerk stated she had not been advised of the decision yet.

Councillor Hubbard questioned why a presentation was being given this evening when the Committee had decided not to approve further work by Priority for People until a response had been received from MWPC regarding joint funding. The Town Clerk apologised and replied that she thought the Committee wanted an update.

It was proposed by Councillor Ellis, seconded by the Town Mayor, Councillor S Crundell, and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that no further work would be undertaken on the Priority for People project until confirmation had been received from MWPC regarding part-funding.

265/22 Planning Applications

The Council had **no objection** to the following planning applications:

[PL/2022/02900](#)

22 SHURNHOLD, MELKSHAM, SN12 8DG

Conversion of existing garage into an annex and extension to the rear. New extension to the front of the main house, new single storey garage and storm porch to main house. Internal alterations.

Consultation Deadline: 27/06/2022

It was proposed by Councillor Rabey, seconded by Councillor S Crundell and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to support the application.

[PL/2022/04244](#)

5 CHURCHILL AVENUE, MELKSHAM, SN12 7JL
Single storey extension to form porch and toilet
Consultation Deadline: 06/07/2022

It was proposed by Councillor Hubbard, seconded by Councillor S Crundell and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to support the application.

The Council **Objected** to the following planning applications:

[PL/2022/04025](#)

1 WAVERLEY GARDENS, MELKSHAM, SN12 6AL
Creation of a vehicle access to new hardstanding at front of the property, includes removal of hedgerow at front of property boundary.
Consultation Deadline: 27/06/2022

It was proposed by Councillor Hubbard, seconded by Councillor Rabey and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to **Object** to the application on the following grounds:

- highways grounds as the proposed vehicle access will exit directly onto a crossing used by children to safely cross Semington Road on the way to and from school.
- it is unnecessary as the property has a current access at the rear.
- loss of green space - the application is against the Council's ethos of promoting healthy living and outdoor activities.

[PL/2022/00125](#)

KING STREET, MELKSHAM, SN12 6HE
Proposed 3 No new terraced dwellings
Consultation Deadline: 07/07/2022

It was proposed by Councillor Rabey, seconded by Councillor Aves and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to **Object** to the application on the following grounds:

- the Town Council in January 2022 approved the application subject to conditions in line with the Joint Melksham

Neighbourhood Plan which were: the installation of electric vehicle charging points, the installation of solar panels and the provision of a planting scheme in the shared open spaces. These three conditions have not been addressed.

- overdevelopment of the site – the site is not suitable for the proposed development.
- highways issues - that the only access to the properties is through King Street car park.
- there is no allocated parking for vehicles which is in contravention of the core strategy which states that two parking spaces are required per two-bed house.
- drainage issues that were raised in January 2022 have not been addressed in the revised application.
- loss of green space - the application is against the Council's ethos of promoting health living and outdoor activities.

The Town Council requested that Councillor Hubbard be asked to call-in the application.

266/22 Planning Decisions

Members noted the following planning decisions:

[PL/2022/03690](#)

37 SARUM AVENUE, MELKSHAM, SN12 6BN

Single storey flat roof rear extension & single storey front lounge and porch extension.

Decision: Approve with conditions

MTC Response: No objection

[PL/2022/03140](#)

MELKSHAM COMMUNITY CAMPUS , MARKET PLACE,
MELKSHAM, SN12 6ES

Proposal: External non-illuminated advertisements - including main building sign, car park signs and totem sign.

Decision: Approve with conditions

MTC Response: No objection

[PL/2022/01113](#)

99 PRIMROSE DRIVE, MELKSHAM, SN12 6GD

Second storey extension to provide an extra bedroom

MTC Response: No objection

Decision: Approve with conditions

267/22 Local Highways and Footpath Improvement Group (LHFIG) Issues

267/22.1 Lighting the Pathway Between St Michael's Road and Hazelwood Road

The Town Mayor, Councillor S Crundell, asked if funding was

available in the LHFIG budget to finance the request or had the budget been exhausted on the footpath improvements already agreed.

The Town Clerk replied that the budget was not sufficient and would require a small top up to be approved by Full Council, but that she was confident that there would be a source available in the budget.

Councillor Hubbard expressed his concern that it was not noted on the agenda how much was left in the budget and that the committee were asked to sign off on expenditure and expected to remember what funding had already been allocated.

It was proposed by Councillor Hubbard, seconded by Councillor Aves and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to request additional funding from Full Council to top up the LHFIG funding and, subject to funding approval, to proceed with the installation of a lighting column located approximately mid-point of the footway link between St Michael's and Hazelwood Roads, with the Town Council's share of the cost being £2,000.

268/22 Northacre Briefing 16

The Environment Agency Briefing 16: Northacre Renewable Energy Ltd was noted.

269/22 Sparkle Team and Parish Steward

The Committee Clerk confirmed that the Sparkle Team were working this week on the Melksham underpass to remove graffiti and clearing leaves on Lowbourne was on the schedule of works.

Works to be forwarded to the Sparkle Team and Parish Steward were as follows:

- removal of weeds at the bottom of Thackeray Crescent.
- removal of weeds on the pathway from Hazelwood Road to the Church past the cricket pitch.
- cutting back hedges in Lowbourne car park in the autumn.

Meeting Closed at: 7.58 pm

Signed:

Dated: